PRESS RELEASE

ID THIEF ADMITS GUILT IN $200,000 SCAM

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on February 2, 2004, DOROTHEA LEWIS OIEN, 54 years old, formerly of Phoenix, currently living in Raleigh, NC, pled guilty to Misuse of a Social Security Number in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

OIEN had been charged with violating Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B), Misuse of a Social Security Number; Title 18, U.S.C., Section 1029(a)(2), Fraud in Relation to Access Devices; and 18 U.S.C. Section 152(3), False Declarations in Bankruptcy. OIEN admitted as part of her guilty plea that she used another's Social Security Number in an application for a credit because OIEN herself had bad credit. According to a complaint filed earlier in the case, OIEN used 8 different names, two dates of birth, and two Social Security Numbers in carrying out a scheme to defraud. When the person whose identity was stolen was contacted by a creditor, the victim obtained a credit report showing about 15 different fraudulent credit accounts totaling more than $200,000, according to the complaint. The complaint also indicated that OIEN financed the purchase of 5 different vehicles in a nine month period, and later filed for bankruptcy using the stolen Social Security Number.

(MORE)

A conviction for Misuse of a Social Security Number carries a maximum penalty of five years, a $250,000 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Roslyn O. Silver on April 19, 2004.

The investigation in this case was conducted the United States Secret Service and the Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-576-PHX-ROS
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-021

# # #